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3. RUSTYSPOTTED CAT (*FELIS RUBIGINOSA* GEOFFROY) SIGHTED NEAR UDAIPUR

Udaipur has a lake called Fateh Sagar with a road around it called Rani Road. The city is surrounded by hills and two of the big hills called Neemach Mata and Thoria Magra are under the forest department.

On 26th July 1992 at about 6.30 p.m. while driving on Rani Road, my daughter drew my attention to a dead cat lying near the road. I parked my vehicle and examined the animal. It was a small cat, probably killed in a road accident. The body was swollen apparently the cat had been killed about 20 hrs earlier. Its coat was grey with a light reddish tinge, with four dark brown stripes running from the forehead to a little beyond the shoulder dorsally.

The flanks and other parts of the body had rusty spots. On the hind quarter the size of the rusty spots was smaller than that on the forelimbs. The tail had no spots or marking. The chin and the underside of the forearms had dark brown stripes. The underside was white with black spots. I consulted "THE BOOK OF INDIAN ANIMALS" by S.H. Prater 1990 and found it to be a rusty spotted cat.

To the best of my knowledge this is the first sighting of a rusty spotted cat from Rajasthan.

July 2, 1993

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4. OCCURRENCE OF THE LEAF-NOSED BAT *HIPPOSIDEROS LANKADIVA* KELAART (MAMMALIA:CHIROPTERA:RHINOLOPHIDAE) IN RATNAGIRI DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA

While working on the breeding biology of the Horseshoe bat, *Rhinolophus rouxi* Temminck, a bat collection trip was organised at Sangameshwar (17° 10' N, 73° 30' E) in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra state in June 1990. Sangameshwar is a town on the Shastri river about 20 miles from the coast. Bats were collected using mist nets which were set on the river bank. In all 220 bats were captured in two mist net operations of which, 80 males and 110 females were identified as *R. rouxi* and 8 males and 22 females were identified as Leaf-nosed bat, *Hipposideros lankadiva*. Of the total collection, four pregnant females of each species were collected for laboratory studies and the rest were released. On

further survey by Kothari, a colony of about 200 bats of *H. lankadiva* was sited in the old Shiva temple which is situated on the western bank of the river Shastri. The identifications were confirmed by Muni using the BNHS collections.

According to authoritative literature *H. lankadiva* is known from Garo Hills, Assam (Kemp 1924); Gersoppa, Kanara (Ellerman and Morrison-Scott 1951, Wroughton 1913, Brosset 1962); Kolar, Eastern Mysore (Ellerman and Morrison-Scott 1951, Ryley 1913); Mundra, Sagor, Central Provinces (Ellerman and Morrison-Scott 1951, Wroughton and Ryley 1913a; BNHS collection); Talewadi, Belgaum (BNHS collections); Sohagpur, Hoshangabad, Bihar (Brosset 1962);

Mandu, Indore (Brosset 1962, BNHS collections); Vijaynagar, Bellary (Brosset 1962, Wroughton and Ryley 1913b) and Chandrapur district in Maharashtra (Bhiwagade 1978).

Brosset (1962) in his paper on bats of central and western India mentions that there is no record of this species from Gujarat and Maharashtra. However, Bhiwagade collected six female bats of the same species from Chandrapur district, Maharashtra, in 1978. There is no further record of this species from any other parts of Maharashtra. This is hence the first record of the

Leaf-nosed bat, *H. lankadiva* from Sangameshwar, Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra State.

July 15, 1993

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5. WILD BUFFALO *BUBALUS BUBALIS* IN DHAKUAKHANA, LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT OF ASSAM

Dhakuakhana Sub-division of Lakhimpur district in eastern Assam is entirely on the flood-plain zone of the Brahmaputra and its tributary, the Subansiri. The original natural vegetation comprised mostly of tall elephant-grass and patches of marshes and woodland here and there — favoured habitat for the rare Asiatic Wild Water Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*). However, the bulk of the woodlands have vanished while the grassland is extant as patches only.

During my stay at Dhakuakhana from November 1989 and April 1991, I made a detailed survey of the whole sub-division and found that the buffalo has vanished from the whole area except one.

On 24 October 1990 a villager of Dakhingaon-Keseruguri reported that four wild buffaloes were in the grassland lying to the west of Lamugaon and south of his village. On the basis

of this report I made a thorough survey of the area on elephant-back. We located footprints near Alotiagora village and then following track amidst dense elephant-grass found four buffaloes (date : 26 October, 1990). One large adult female (pregnant), one more adult female, one sub-adult male and one sub-adult female comprised the herd. The bull of the herd, which had one horn was killed sometimes in 1988 near Sariahni village by the Mising tribe. This is the last herd and also the remnant of the wild buffalo population in the whole sub-division. The herd size is now five with the large cow delivering a calf during the winter of 1990-91.

The buffaloes of this area used to move upto Kadam RF on the west bank of the Subansiri river. But now the movement has almost ceased. The wild ones reportedly visit their domestic cousins in the nearby villages during night. How-